

# Interconnected Nature of Participation and of SDGs

Do different SDGs call for different types of participation?

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# Introduction

- Do different SDGS call for different forms of participation?
  - Difficult to ascertain – goals and targets explicitly addressing participation neither concrete nor closely linked to HR obligations
  - Nor should they be calling for different types of participation.

**Primary focus on participation that is grounded in international law: applicable to all SDGs**

# Overview

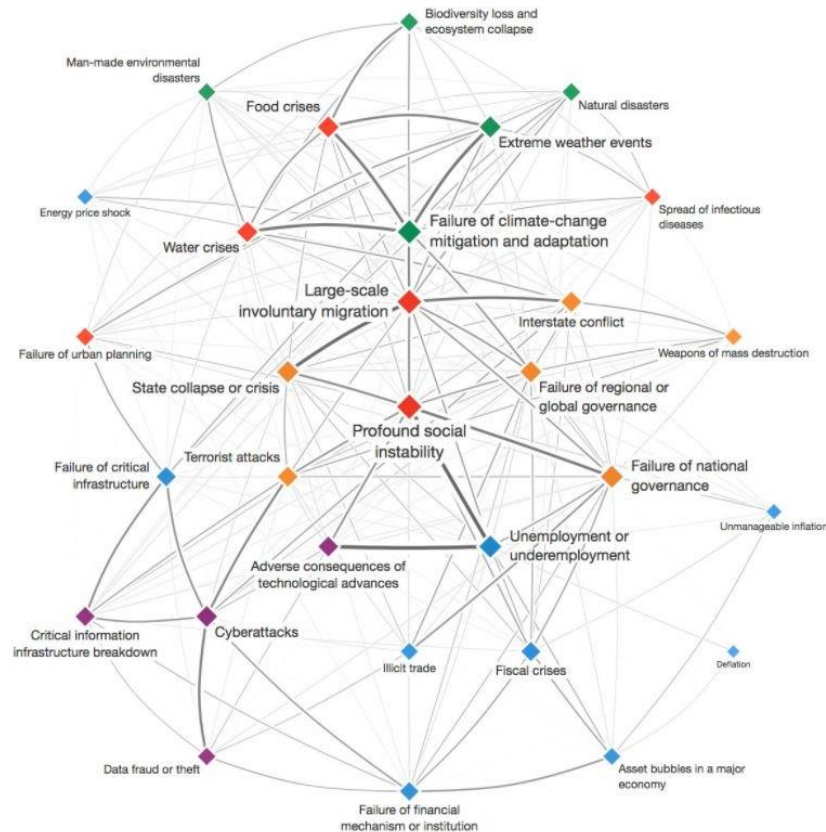
- 1. Briefly explain how participation is articulated in the SDGs
- 2. Outline the type of participation that is universally binding in international law
- 3. Discuss how a whole-of-society approach can avoid trade offs in between goals and between the SDGs and participation

# SDGs and Participation

Sustainable Development Goals		Targets	
Goal 5	Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls	Target 5.5	Ensure women's full and <b>effective participation</b> and equal opportunities for leaders at all levels of decision-making.
Goal 6	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	Target 6.b	Support and strengthen the <b>participation of local communities</b> in improving water and sanitation management.
Goal 11	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	Target 11.3	By 2030, enhance inclusive sustainable urbanization and capacity for <b>participatory</b> , integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries.
Goal 16	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.	Target 16.7	Ensure responsive, inclusive, <b>participatory</b> and representative decision making at all levels.
		Target 16.8	Broaden and strengthen the <b>participation of developing countries</b> in the institutions of global governance.

## The Global Risks Interconnections Map 2018

How are global risks interconnected?

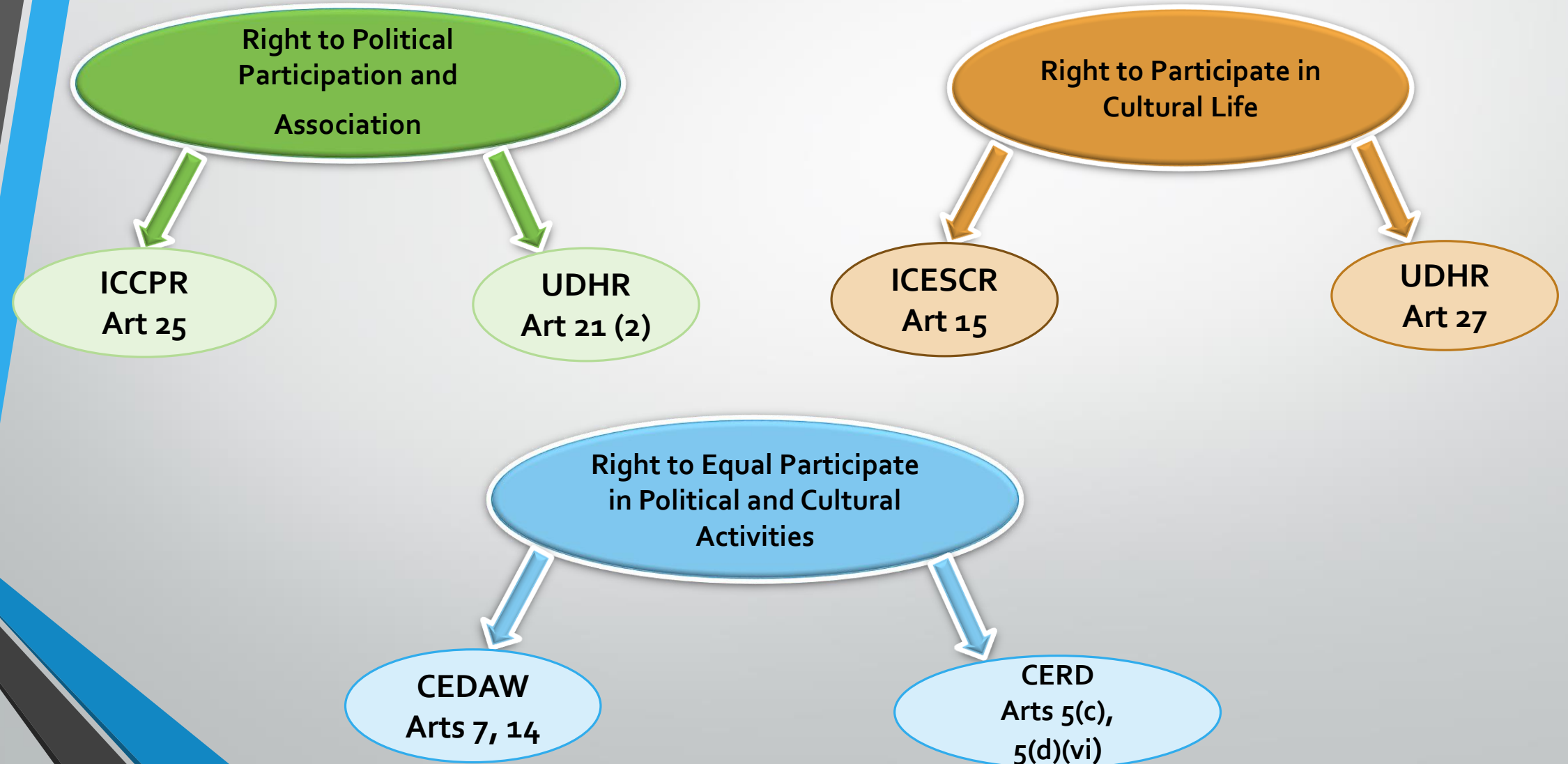


# SDGs and Participation

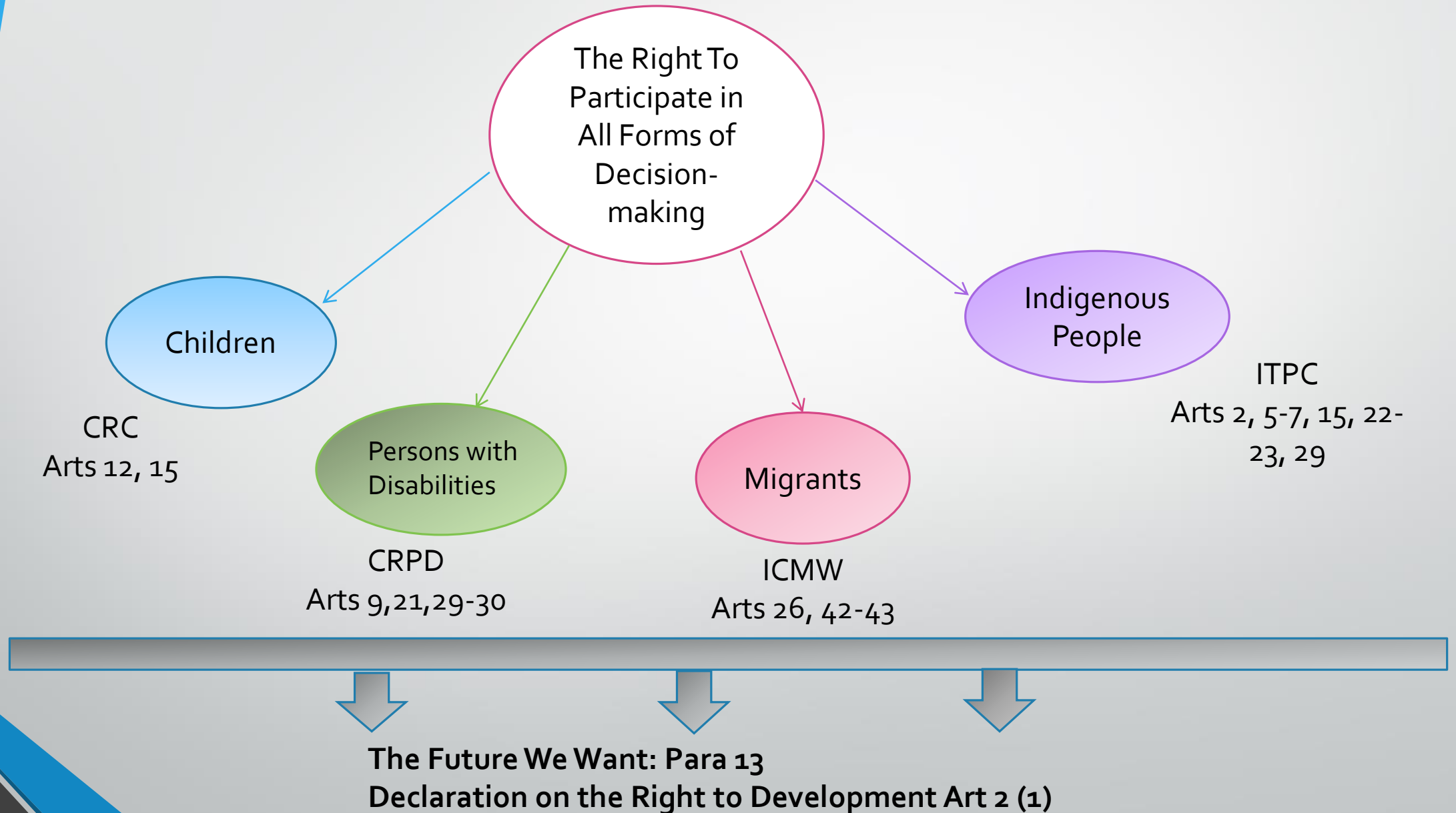
# Participation in International Law



# Participation in Int Law (Human Rights)



# Participation in Int Law (Human Rights)





# Convention on the Right of Persons with Disabilities

## Arts 9, 21, and 29-30

### *Preamble (m)*

Recognizing the valued existing and potential contributions made by persons with disabilities to the overall well-being and diversity of their communities, and that /../ full participation by persons with disabilities will result in /.../ significant advances in the human, social and economic development of society and the eradication of poverty



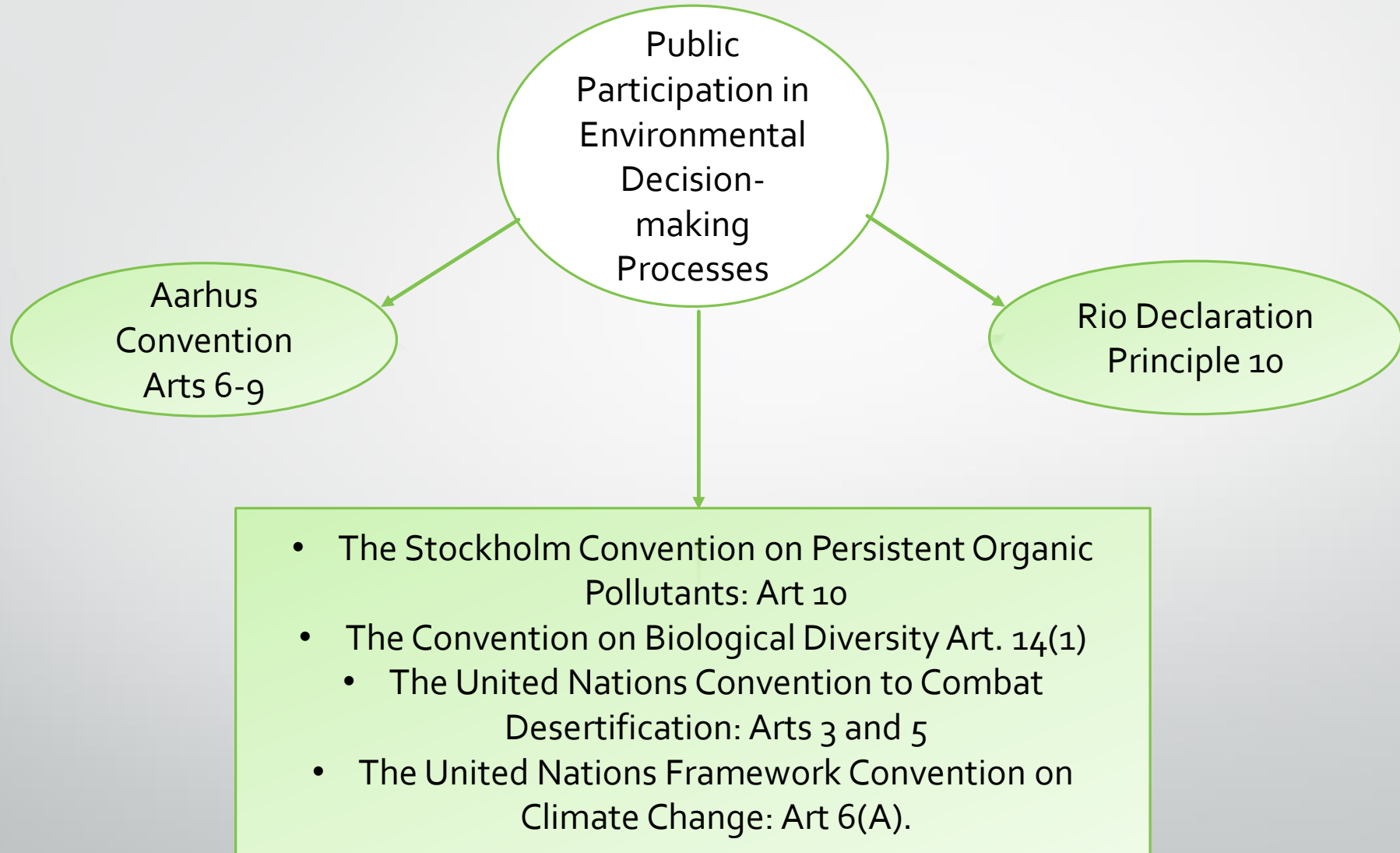


# Convention on the Rights of the Child Arts 12 and 15

## ***Article 12***

States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child

# Participation in Int Law (Env Law)



# Soft law instruments

- UN Guiding Principles on BHR – due diligence key. (Also reflected in IEL)
- UN Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples – free, prior informed consent
- Declaration on Human Rights Defenders
- Declaration on the Right to Development - free, active and meaningful participation

Participation as one of the human rights principles

# Duty Bearers Obligations:

- to ensure that all rights-holders can participate on an equal basis free from discrimination and paying special attention to the most vulnerable.
- to make arenas for participation accessible, based on principles of inclusion, transparency and accountability.
- to provide the necessary tools to enable rights-holders to effectively participate, such as access to information.

# Increased interaction between SDGs and participation = Trade-Offs?

- Increased interactions not only in-between SDGs, but also between the SDGs and meaningful participation = trade-offs in between goals. The trade-offs are often a result of competing interests between those who prioritise social development, those who prioritise economic development, and those who prioritise participation and other human rights principles, and so forth.
- **Trade-offs unavoidable, but we can** minimise trade-offs by building cross-disciplinary synergies and developing more wholistic approaches
- So, what do we mean by a whole-of-society approach, and how can such an approach avoid trade-offs?



A vibrant, stylized illustration of a diverse group of children and adults engaged in various activities. In the foreground, a girl with blonde pigtails brushes her teeth, while a boy next to her smiles. To the right, a girl holds a large bunch of fruits and vegetables. In the background, other children are playing with a ball, holding books, or eating. The scene is filled with energy and represents a 'whole-of-society' approach. The text 'A Whole-of-Society Approach' is overlaid in the center in a white, sans-serif font.

# A Whole-of-Society Approach



## ***Definition:***

The “whole-of-society” approach implies a truly multi-stakeholder approach to achieving SDGs, which comprises of several components:

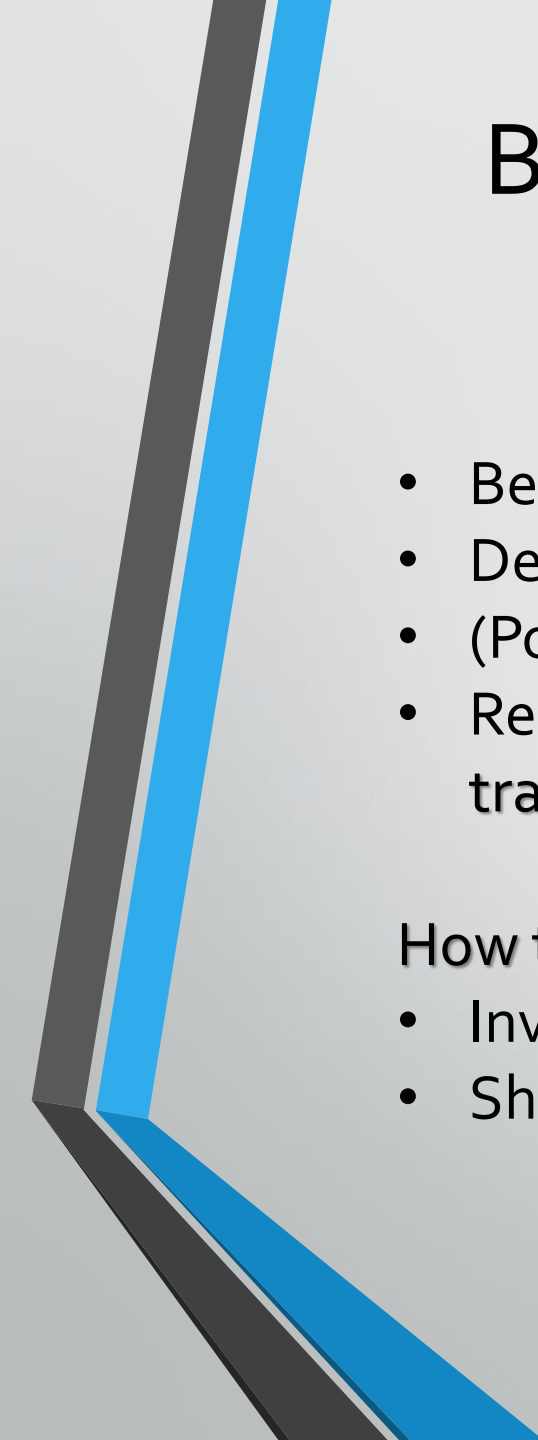
**Inclusivity:** of all actors, financial institutions, private sector, civil society actors, the media, trade unions and academia.

**Accessibility:** creating a common platform of communication and exchanging knowledge accessible to all interested stakeholders

**Integration:** to ensure horizontal and vertical policy coherence

**Innovation:** Multi-sectoral and cross-disciplinary





# Benefits of A whole-of-society approach: Stakeholders

- Better knowledge and resource base – more options to mitigate trade-offs
- Decision making power
- (Potential to) create trust to facilitate constructive collaboration
- Representation and dialogue – accountability and transparency around trade-offs

## How to start?

- Inviting and engage in plans and trade-off decisions
- Sharing data, plans, systems – for efficiency and transparency

# Benefits of A whole-of-society approach: All concerned fields of expertise/sciences

- Can address the obstacle of silos (*can* also benefit All-of-Govt approach)
- Potential (!) “brain-join gains” for innovative solutions
- More comprehensive picture (of knots and options)
- Potential for holistically viable solutions = less trade-offs

## How to start?

- Creating common ground and narratives between sectoral/goal experts
- Collaborative research and dialogue focused on links and knots
- Joint recommendations for SDG plans, addressing trade-offs

# Benefits of A whole-of-society approach: Rights holders

- No participation – conflict, human rights violations, environmental issues overlooked
- Shallow participation - tends to increase mistrust and frustration
- Meaningful participation of all\*, aside from complying with IHRL (arguably)
  - Supports development and poverty reduction\*
  - Offers more/diverse resources
  - Offers perspectives and knowledge
  - Fosters trust, commitment, contributions etc.
  - Trade-offs likely to be less, and can be “negotiated”

## Think Local?

- The above - in the framework of localised SDG (NDC/Sendai) plans:
  - Sustainable/human rights/smart cities
  - Do/can they overlap?
  - Efficiency gains in data and processes?

